

Torrance, California
July 24, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, July 24, 1945, at 7:55 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 10 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held July 17, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from United Steelworkers of America, Local Union 1414, opposing the sale of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines and stating that recall petitions will be immediately instituted to install a better, honest and fairer council which can and will serve the citizens of Torrance. A vote of thanks was extended Councilman Cucci for his honest and untiring efforts. No action.

A communication was read from State, County & Municipal Workers of America, Local 360 requesting the Council to meet with the Executive Board of the Union and asking that the Council request Fire Chief McMaster be present at the meeting, for the purpose of holding a final hearing on the George Strong discharge case.

A discussion followed on the question of whether the Council had been asked to meet with the Union, whereupon Clerk Bartlett was requested to reread the letter.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council meet with the Union but that Fire Chief McMaster should not be forced to meet with them. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

After further discussion Councilman Gilbert withdrew his motion and Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his second.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the State, County & Municipal Workers of America, Local 360, be notified that the City Council will meet with their Executive Board in the City Hall at 2:00 P.M., Friday, July 27th. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the American Red Cross, Torrance Branch, expressing their appreciation for the use of the ambulance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Mr. George Mort requesting permission to operate a taxi service in the City of Torrance and stating that he is a returned veteran and that the Office of Defense Transportation will grant him a Certificate of War Necessity if the City will grant him a license to operate.

Councilman Powell stated that he was in favor of helping veterans and moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole, assuring that definite action will be taken at the next meeting, and allowing Mr. Mort time in which to bring in a copy of the ODT letter which he failed to enclose with his communication. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Ernest Westhaver advising that he is the owner of three acres of land on 182nd Street West of Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, and appealing to the Council for the formation of a Water District.

Mayor Tolson stated that later in the meeting action will be taken on the request for a water survey in North Torrance and at that time the request of Mr. Westhaver will also be considered.

A communication was read from the Boy Scouts of America with reference to their plans for the employment of personnel to supervise the property in Torrance used for scouting purposes, known as Camp Vaughn Scott, and advising that their budget provides for a full time employee who will serve as caretaker to be related to the program of Scouting as conducted on the site, but that nothing can be done about having a man definitely located on the site until a suitable house is provided for him. The letter stated further that Mr. Ackerman, Director of Camping & Activities, is prepared to discuss plans for a suitable building.

Councilman Gilbert clarified several points in this letter and moved that the communication be referred to Mr. Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, and that he be instructed to get in touch with Mr. Ackerman in regard to this matter. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Winters, owners of the property at the corner of El Prado and Cabrillo Avenues, requesting the removal of ten eucalyptus trees whose roots have already become a serious menace to the drainage system in their apartment house and asking that they be replaced with birch.

Councilman Gilbert advised that Engineer Jain, Superintendent of Parks, Blake and the Torrance Planning Commission were now working on a tree removal program, and moved that the request from Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Winters be referred to Mr. Blake, Superintendent of Parks, for recommendation. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Jerry Wilson, Director of the Todd Ship Band, and Leader of the Jerry Wilson Orchestra, recommending that his band, composed of 12 to 18 members from the defense plants of the harbor area, conduct weekly dances in the Civic Auditorium, and enclosing a business schedule program of the cost.

Councilman Cucci, although Chairman of the Auditorium Committee, believed this matter should be referred to the Recreation Commission, and moved that this communication be referred to the Recreation Commission for report at the next meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Doak Aircraft Co., Inc. requesting resurfacing of Border Avenue from Carson Street to 222nd Street and the easterly side of Border Avenue from 222nd Street to Plaza Del Amo.

Councilman Hitchcock informed that City Engineer Jain had included this street, with a list of others, in the forthcoming budget, but that the budget had not as yet been approved, but there was every hope the work would be done this year. Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed for future reference.

A communication addressed to City Engineer Jain was read from Supervisor Raymond V. Darby thanking him for his contribution to the very comprehensive report which he had received from the Committee on Refuse Disposal in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. A copy of a letter from Supervisor Darby to the Board of Supervisors was enclosed commenting on the fine report. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Simpson Scenic Studios estimating the cost of flameproofing the velour stage curtains in the Civic Auditorium at \$175.00 to \$200.00, depending on the method of application, which can be either dipped or sprayed.

Councilman Gucci moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$200.00 be made for flameproofing the velour stage curtains in the Civic Auditorium. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Office of Defense Transportation with reference to the proposed changes in operations by the City of Torrance to include Redondo Beach, Palos Verdes and Clifton Riviera if permission is granted by the ODT. They stated that after a survey of the entire area they were convinced that there is no justification for the proposed changes, but that a report and recommendation is being prepared for submission to the Regional Director for his final determination.

Councilman Gucci remarked that the ODT appeared to be stalling, and had it not been for internal complications in the Bus Department he would have taken some action; however he would now get in touch with the Regional Director, and moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gucci also stated that the Pacific Electric Railway and the Los Angeles Railway control the California Railroad Commission.

A communication was read from Mr. Charles F. Koors submitting a bid in the nature of a contract between the City of Torrance, as seller, and Charles F. Koors, as buyer, in the amount of \$65,000.00, for the purchase of all automotive equipment, automotive spare parts, shop tools, and equipment, including all of the tangible personal property used or useful in the transportation business operated as the Torrance City Municipal Bus Line, and pursuant to the terms and conditions as set out in said contract. A \$5,000.00 Cashier's Check accompanied the bid.

Councilman Gucci moved that the communication be laid over until time for oral communications so that the people may have a chance to enter into the discussion of this matter. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gucci and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gucci declared that the people had a right to a voice in the sale of so profitable a business; that it was not legal to contract for something over \$1,000.00, therefore, how could the Council sell a department worth over \$100,000.00 without giving the people an opportunity to vote on it. He believed that an explanation should be given stating the reason why the Bus Line is being sold, and that after everyone has had an opportunity

to express his views, the matter should be taken under consideration. Long discussion followed on people's rights.

Councilman Powell advised that he was at another meeting when Mr. Koors presented his offer and suggested that a resolution be adopted by the Council without any further ado. Councilman Powell asked Mr. Koors to submit his offer in writing and that it be referred to the entire Council for study and he believed that this procedure should be followed at this time and that the public should not be barred from participating in the discussion of this matter.

Councilman Powell moved that the proposal be referred to the Council as a whole for further study.

Councilman Gilbert asserted that he is not being influenced by any person or group of persons, but he is thoroughly convinced that the Bus Line cannot operate under the present ownership as it is being operated today, and he believes that the sooner the Bus Line is sold the sooner the people of Torrance will have better service.

Councilman Cucci charged Councilman Gilbert with a reversal of opinion stating that sometime in October Mr. Gilbert had made the statement that a municipally owned line was the only solution and added, "your referring to the fact that we sell it, leads me to believe that the only way to get rid of a skeleton in a closet is dispose of it without the people knowing of it. It should be taken out and the people know about it."

Councilman Gilbert admitted he had made the statement referred to by Councilman Cucci, but that since that time had had a lot of time to consider the matter and that was the reason for his change of opinion adding, "not because I think you (addressing Councilman Cucci) are not doing your job O.K., but I feel as a member of the Council I have a right to change my opinion as well as any other member of the Council, and as far as closing this without a voice of the people, it will be some thirty to sixty days before it can go through as it goes before the Railroad Commission. If any people in Torrance can convince me why we should not sell the Bus Line I will be willing to change my mind and I think up to and including the time we accept the proposal, we, the City Council, can change our opinion."

Councilman Cucci, in addressing Councilman Gilbert, said, "You should state why you are changing your opinion. Why are you willing to sell a line when it is operating at par when it showed no profit in the last four years, and today when the revenue has almost doubled you are now willing to sell?"

Councilman Gilbert stated that he had formerly worked in the Bus Department and was long familiar with it and at that time he sincerely felt that a solution to the transportation problem would be to retain the Bus Line, but that the friction which had arisen both in the Council and among the personnel of the Bus Department, and the arguments, pro and con, among the people, justified his change of opinion.

Councilman Cucci asked Councilman Gilbert how much sleep he had lost over this matter. There was an outburst from the audience and Mayor Tolson rapped for order.

Councilman Cucci declared he still had the floor and said, "For the past six months I never had one complaint from any driver and the Civil Service Board has had no complaints that I know. The Council, I know, have had no formal complaints except the complaint I presented the past week, and why Mr. Gilbert states he wants to rid himself of the line which has become such a burden on the Council and on the Department; I feel the people who have elected us here have taken on a job. The reason for all this is because they are taking the same attitude which a baby would take if you would take a lollipop from him, he would be crying."

Councilman Gilbert: "Mayor Tolson I would like to answer Councilman Cucci's question about how much sleep or complaints I have had. In regard to sleep ***there have been plenty complaints from members of the personnel of the Bus Line. Yesterday I had everything from the Bus Manager, Dispatcher, personnel, organized labor and outsiders, and I made it very clear to everyone of them how I felt about it. I listened to all sides and was very fair."

Councilman Powell: "The proposition has been made to sell the busses, that it has come up quite recently, only in the last few days. I knew there was a move to sell the busses at this time, and if it is necessary, and I don't contend it is, if it should be necessary to put them on the market. I don't like the approach that had been made by rushing one firm in here and unloading it. I think we should advertise for bids. I cannot agree with disposing of the system in this manner."

Discussion followed regarding the benefit of the busses to schools and children.

Mayor Tolson stated that the Bus Line had hardly ever paid expenses until the last few months; that it had come out of the red in the last year by setting up a fictitious depreciation figure which no other transportation business uses. He informed that when this matter came up in the last two weeks, the party who is making the bid is in a position to render better service to the City than any other transportation company the City might sell to. He stated further that he was not in favor of municipally owned transportation as it very seldom pays expenses. He asserted that the letter threatening a recall, which was read earlier in the meeting, was in bad taste and it would help him make up his mind stronger than it had already been made up, and that the sooner the line is disposed of the better transportation the City will have. He declared that the company who is buying the line has unlimited funds and for that reason he is in favor of disposing of the system now.

Councilman Cucci referred to the revenue of the Bus Line and a discussion followed between Mayor Tolson and Councilman Cucci on municipally owned transportation.

Councilman Hitchcock declared that Mayor Tolson had about stated his views and he moved that Mr. Koor's offer be accepted with the approval of the City Attorney and approval of the Railroad Commission. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci registered a protest stating, "This had been submitted without the Council having a chance to look into the matter;" that it should not be a closed matter but that it should be open to the public.

Councilman Powell objected to Councilman Hitchcock's motion on several grounds, saying, "I do not think I ever saw a more brazen attempt to handle municipal affairs than is being put over here now and I do not offer an apology for this statement. If you want to be fair to the public, the least you can do is give them an opportunity; this is not the only man who might be interested in the Bus Line; then if you are determined to sell, the majority, of course, rules."

Councilman Gilbert said that before it goes to the Railroad Commission, either party to the contract can cancel same and this gives everybody ample time, but, "I think we should get the ball rolling."

Councilman Powell: "It is getting too hot for you then?"

Councilman Gilbert: "No it is not getting too hot."

Councilman Cucci objected to the first motion, saying it is not giving the private citizen of this community a chance. Mayor Tolson asked Councilman Cucci to make a motion.

Councilman Cucci objected to a consideration of the question brought up by Councilman Hitchcock and continued to object to the shut-out method of the bid stating that the people should have just as much right to bid on the present line as Mr. Koor, providing they had the money; whereupon Councilman Cucci entered a substitute motion that the matter be laid over until oral communications so the people might have an opportunity to discuss same.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Attorney McCall if there should not be a second on a substitute motion. In reply to the affirmative, Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Council accept the bid of Mr. Koors with approval of the Attorney and Railroad Commission. He then asked Mr. Koors if it was his intention to take care of the present personnel, to which Mr. Koors replied saying, "Definitely, we would like to take care of the entire personnel. We would even take on more if we can get them."

Councilman Gilbert inquired of Attorney McCall if the City were to receive bids over and above Mr. Koor's bid prior to the time it is approved by the Railroad Commission, and the City felt it would be more profitable to accept another bid, would the Council have the right to rescind this motion. Attorney McCall replied in the negative.

Councilman Gilbert then seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Mr. Charles Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Line, expressing his opinion and reasons why private ownership of the Bus Line would benefit the people of Torrance rather than under Municipal ownership.

Councilman Cucci moved that the communication be filed for future reference and remarked, "He (Mr. Ward) also takes the attitude of a growling dog; that if you take a bone away he will growl like all other little dogs."

A communication was read from Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District, requesting permission to wreck the old workshop in the rear of the Water Department Building and salvage the material for use in the Pumping Plant Yard.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District, asking that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for a workshop to replace the old tin shed in the rear of the Water Department Building, as per plans and specifications.

Mayor Tolson asked Mr. Stanger to meet with the Council on Monday night, the night before the next regular meeting, and explain the plans and specifications for the proposed new workshop.

A communication was read from Mr. Alfred H. Dahm requesting temporary permission to park a house trailer in rear of the service station located at 18319 South Western Avenue, explaining that the property is now clearing through escrow and a residence building is to be constructed very shortly.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Dahm's request be granted for a period of ninety days. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett reported that he had checked the petitions, bearing signatures of registered voters of WALTERIA calling for an election to form a water district, with the Great Registrar of Voters Office and found that there are more than 15% of the signers in that district who are registered.

With reference to the North Torrance and WALTERIA water surveys, the question arose as to whether it would be legal to combine both elections and how soon after the petitions are checked should the election be held.

Discussion followed on the cost of survey of North Torrance.

Councilman Cucci was in favor of a survey but believed that it should not cost as much as the WALTERIA survey, and that the survey made of the North Torrance district several years ago by Taylor and Taylor could be used as a basis for their new survey, and for this reason this firm should be asked to reduce its price.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an expenditure of not to exceed \$600.00 be authorized for a survey of the water situation in North Torrance by Taylor and Taylor, Consulting Engineers.

Councilman Powell disapproved the procedure of singling out one firm and setting a price for his work.

Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Paul Bien be employed as patrolman in the Police Department replacing H. E. Garner, resigned, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective July 21, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$57.50, plus tax, be made for the purchase of a fluid drive unit for Police cars from Thatcher & Ott. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$68.58, plus tax, be made for the purchase of three sets of brake lining for stock. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

After some deliberation, Councilman Cucci disapproved the purchase of material for stock as the Bus Line had already been sold, whereupon Councilman Cucci rescinded his motion and Councilman Hitchcock withdrew his second.

Councilman Gilbert did not think the Bus Line should be held back and if the part was needed, it should be purchased.

Councilman Cucci agreed that if the part was for immediate use it should be purchased, otherwise he was not in favor in purchasing something for stock.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$150.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of compressor from the Crown Body & Coach Corporation. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$65.00, plus tax, be made for the purchase of 2,000 - 10-ride commutation books from Dillingham Printing Company. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that Bennett L. Dorsey be employed as a bus operator, on a temporary basis and as a part-time employee, in the Bus Line, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective July 19, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that a watchman be employed in the City Yard Bus Department, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective July 18, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci believed that the activity of the Bus Line should not stop at this time even though it is being sold, and

declared, "The move to sell the Bus Line was not a question of revenue since it is evident that the Bus Lines are operating at a profit for the first time since their inception. This last week I had a meeting with the Council. I requested that they support me in asking for the resignation of the Manager of the Bus Line, Mr. Ward. I presented my reasons based on facts, which I intend to present later. They agreed that I had sufficient grounds, but I failed to get a majority. The Mayor stated that the purchaser of the Bus Lines might want the Manager to be included in the sale, otherwise he would be willing to support me. Mr. Hitchcock stated that the Bus Department was a headache to him and he was for selling it. Councilman Gilbert has thus far supported me in every move since I was appointed Chairman of the Transportation Committee. However, Mr. Ward is a very good friend of his and in his opinion, I did not give Mr. Ward a chance to justify his actions. Because of this, he is in favor of selling the Bus Lines, providing the price is right. Mr. Powell also requested that the Council support me in this move."

Councilman Cucci pointed out it was not a question of friendship or political obligations, headaches or selling of the Bus Lines, but a duty that they obligated themselves when they took their oath of office to act without prejudice in upholding movements that make for good honest government.

Councilman Cucci: "At this time I would like to ask the Council to support me in discharging C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Bus Line, for the following reasons: Insubordination, inefficiency, taking liberties beyond his authority, causing confusion in the Bus operation and creating a feeling of job insecurity to Bus Line personnel."

Councilman Cucci commented on Mr. Ward's letter to the Council wherein he recommended the City sell the Bus System.

Councilman Cucci asserted that a great deal of trouble had arisen in the last two weeks; that in one instance he had to stop a driver from drawing his pay in bed. He accused Mr. Ward with lack of cooperation, declaring he had gone into the Bus office and helped finish some of Mr. Ward's work.

Councilman Cucci continued, "I know from the statements made by the Council here that they certainly would not go to any effort to maintain this line as it is being maintained now. I do not understand their reason for wanting to sell the Bus Line as it is now when it is showing a profit. In the past six months I have done what I think was the proper thing for the Bus Department. I went to several transportation companies trying to set up a record system so we might know what we were doing. Previous to this there had not been any. I asked Mr. Ward to do this, but he objected. He had the forms made and kept them for a week, but then let it go. I asked the reason and he (Mr. Ward) stated the speedometers were not working."

Councilman Cucci declared, "Mr. Ward has not cooperated with me in the least," and disclosed that it is Mr. Ward's policy to buy gasoline and short the City. He explained that Mr. Ward would allow the drivers to sign for gasoline and stated how they did it. Councilman Cucci discussed at length about the gasoline shortage and went on to state that when the drivers took on gasoline and it ran over one-tenth of a gallon that the City was charged with the full amount, and that evidently the drivers were doing all right for themselves. He accused Mr. Ward of issuing passes on the line without authority from the Council; advertising the rodeo, to his (Mr. Ward's) advantage, without authorization from the Council; and stated that Mr. Ward claimed to be repairing fare boxes at the garage at night without witnesses.

Councilman Cucci read a report on the broken seals of fare boxes of Drivers Gruelle, Callihan and Tyler, saying, "These would be logical ones which would be tampered"; he also read a letter from Mr. Ward to Ernie Treloar (Dispatcher) asking him to put a seal on a fare box and to give him (Mr. Ward) a call at 5:00 A.M. and that unauthorized tickets had been sold on the busses. Councilman Cucci declared that he had sufficient evidence of every

move Mr. Ward has made in the last six months and, therefore, he moved that the Council support him at this time in the dismissal of Mr. Ward as of this date. Councilman Powell seconded the motion. No action.

A discussion ensued between Councilman Gilbert and Cucci regarding Mr. Ward's actions, Councilman Gilbert saying, "Ward and I are very good friends. I am not ashamed of it. I do not think it proper procedure to dismiss a man. When you (Mr. Cucci) came to me with various complaints about the Bus Department, my answer was this - was to crack down - was that right?"

Councilman Cucci, "Yes".

Councilman Gilbert, "When you crack down on a man, my idea would have been to go to Mr. Ward saying - this is going to be it or else - and if he failed to do that, it was your place to call your Transportation Committee together and call Mr. Ward before them and let Mr. Ward have the right at least to defend himself. I feel that is the only fair way of doing things."

Councilman Cucci replied, "I make that motion of dismissal subject to Civil Service Rules; I make that reservation that Mr. Ward be discharged subject to Civil Service Rules and I think he is getting a fair break - he can file charges and so can I file charges. As far as getting the Transportation Committee together, if I had to get the Transportation Committee together for everything, we would be probably sleeping together."

Discussion followed on charges against an employee.

Councilman Cucci claimed he had given Mr. Ward a six months' chance. Councilman Hitchcock asked if this had been going on for the last six months, to which Councilman Cucci replied that he believed it had been going on since its inception.

Councilman Gilbert asked if his (Mr. Cucci) information came from a member of the personnel of the Bus Department, to which Councilman Cucci replied in the negative.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Mr. Koors if, in view of the charges brought against Mr. Ward, would he be willing to have Mr. Ward continue as Manager or did he desire to make a change. Mr. Koors replied saying he had not allowed personalities to enter into this matter; that he held no brief against Mr. Ward or anyone else; that he has had his differences with Mr. Ward at the time he worked for the City, which was one of his reasons for withdrawing from the city's employment; but that until the sale of the Bus Line has been ratified by the Railroad Commission, he saw no particular reason for making a change.

Councilman Cucci objected saying it was unfair of Councilman Hitchcock to ask a private concern such a question as it inferred that if the Bus Line is sold Mr. Ward goes with it.

Councilman Hitchcock asked about the charges brought against Mr. Ward and asked why the Council had not been informed about this.

A discussion followed between Councilmen Cucci, Powell and Hitchcock as to why the Council was not informed six months ago about the mistakes.

Mayor Tolson stated that at the time Mr. Koors left the employ of the City there was no recommendation that Mr. Ward be asked to resign.

Councilman Cucci explained there were two managers of the Bus Line.

Discussion followed.

Mayor Tolson was of the opinion that the management of the Bus Line be left as it is until the City decided definitely what action to follow, which was his reason for not supporting Councilman Cucci in his request for Mr. Ward's dismissal. Mayor Tolson contended that if mismanagement of the Bus Line has been going on for about a year, another week or two would not be a disadvantage to the City and might work a hardship on the new owners of the Bus Line.

Mayor Tolson told Councilman Cucci that he had never opposed any suggestions he had made about the Bus Line but proposed that since the majority wished to sell the Bus Line, "Why not let this matter be as it is."

Councilman Cucci, "If the new owner wants Mr. Ward, then let him employ Mr. Ward at the Crown Body & Coach Company."

Discussion followed as to why the Council had not been informed sooner of the mismanagement.

Councilman Powell declared that Mr. Koors was employed as a Consultant and he supported this action believing the City would get a better manager. He pointed out to Mr. Koors the possible difficulties he would encounter and Mr. Koors assured the Council that he would improve conditions and he (Mr. Koors) desired to keep Mr. Ward. Councilman Powell continued to say that as the Bus Department did not show any improvement he saw no reason for keeping two men and for that reason Mr. Koors was released and Mr. Ward had been retained. "Mr. Ward will verify this statement. It was up to him to make good on this job and I am not satisfied with Mr. Ward's services and that is why I seconded the motion. Councilman Cucci is justified in this and if Mr. Koors wishes to employ him (Mr. Ward) that is another matter." Roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$875.00 be made for road materials for the resurfacing of Santa Fe Avenue, between Arlington Avenue and Cabrillo Avenue. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$200.00 be made for road materials for the resurfacing of the west side of Madrid Avenue, between Dominguez Street and Maricopa Street. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$950.00 be made for the resurfacing with plant-mix, of 218th Street, between Martina Avenue and Arlington Avenue; and between Cabrillo Avenue and Border Avenue. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$200.00, plus tax, be made for a second-hand, steel water tank for use as a sprinkler tank. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$725.00, plus tax, be made for a heavy duty trailer-type air compressor unit, including a two-wheel trailer and pneumatic tires, for the Paint Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$115.00, plus tax, be made for one five-gallon, pressure spray-painting outfit for the Paint Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Robert Faren be employed, on a temporary basis, as Maintenance Man in the Park Department, replacing Archie Hammonds, at a salary of \$170.00 per month, effective July 9, 1945. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$175.00 be made for approximately 62½ tons of plant-mix at \$2.75 per ton for surfacing one 50' x 100' lot on the Pueblo playground. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$3,635.35 be made for payment of library service rendered by the County of Los Angeles for the period January 1 to June 30, 1945 in accordance with terms of contract. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$117.50, plus tax, be made for purchase of Deering's 1943 Codes and General Laws of California from Bender-Moss Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$1,641.13 be made for the purchase of one Wallace & Tiernan, type MSV-M, 200 lbs. capacity chlorinator to replace Pardee Engineering unit No. D-147-2, for Torrance Municipal Water District. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that Cecil C. Powell be employed, not to exceed fifteen days, in the Water Department, at the rate of \$185.00 per month; Mr. Powell, a former employee of the Water Department, having been granted a fifteen days' leave from the United States Army. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

City Engineer Jain reported that he had received a communication from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District stating they propose to reconstruct the present Laguna Dominguez Channel through the north portion of Torrance and the County territory adjacent thereto, and that they propose removing four 5 foot corrugated culverts, each 50 feet in length from the City right of way on Arlington and place in the County right of way on 174th Street.

Engineer Jain asked the City Attorney if it was legal for the City to transfer property of this type, which has been installed in the City streets, to another governmental agency for re-use outside the City limits without reasonable consideration.

Engineer Jain explained that the City can use these pipes in some other place, the question being whether the City desires to sell them and if it has the right to do so.

After some discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer address a communication to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District informing them that it is the desire of the City of Torrance to retain the pipes in question. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci stated that some of the drivers who had heard the decision of the Council would not retain their jobs, and if taken over by a private company they would have to take a reduction in wages; and there was a possibility that some of the drivers would not show up. Councilman Cucci continued saying, "I do not know who is going to accept the responsibility, whether these men should be guaranteed in some way that they will go along with the sale. It seems there has been a motion to the effect that Mr. Ward

go along with the deal but I did not hear anything about the other drivers going along."

Councilman Cucci wanted to know if Mr. Koors would take over the Civil Service employees who are now employed in the Bus Line.

In reply Mr. Koors stated that whether some of the drivers now employed would be taken over by the company if the deal is consummated is something he did not know. However, he said that every employee in the Municipal Bus Line who desires to work for his company can do so, but they will have to do a job to keep a job.

Councilman Cucci urged the drivers to continue with their work in spite of the action of the Council; that they owed it to the public for the good wages the City has been paying them.

Councilman Gilbert believed that if the drivers were efficient in their work they had nothing to worry about.

Councilman Powell stated that some of the drivers, thinking their jobs to be secure, had moved down to Torrance; and he believed that, if some of these employees were not satisfactory to the new company, the City would be able to put them to work in some of the other departments; perhaps not at the rate of pay they had been receiving, but the City would endeavor to find some work for them.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Elder, who was in the audience, directed his conversation in particular at Councilman Gilbert challenging several of the statements he had made. He very emphatically disapproved the sale of the Bus Line saying it belonged to the people and contended that a municipally controlled Bus Line was better than if privately owned. He said Councilman Gilbert was not being democratic in voting to sell the Bus Line and asked what was to stop him from selling the Water Department or the Police Department.

Councilman Gilbert replied saying he had not been influenced by any group of people and that he had a right to change his opinion and decision.

Mr. Elder stated that he should have been given the right to speak before the Council voted on selling the Bus Line and declared he was denied that right.

Mr. Hughes, also in the audience, stated he had been denied the right to voice his opinion and that the sale of the Bus Line was not in the interest of the people of Torrance. He accused the Council of selling the people on the idea of a municipally owned Bus Line and then turning around and trying to sell the people out. He said the people should have been given a chance to vote on the matter and contended that the Council has done a very dishonorable thing in the action they have taken here tonight, and that the only honorable thing the Council can do, if they expect to stay in office and serve the public, is rescind their motion.

Mr. Kenneth Beight, in the audience, spoke in glowing terms of the City of Torrance and its importance, but claimed that the Council had hurt Torrance tremendously by its action. He did not believe they had a logical reason for selling the Bus Line, and the fact that the people have had no say in the matter shows the Council is railroading it through.

Mr. Koors stated that the question of selling the Bus Line had not come up out of a clear sky as he had made two previous offers to purchase and that the people should not unjustly accuse the Council of not having given the matter due consideration. He discussed at length the survey he had made of this area when he was employed as Transportation Engineer by the City. At that time he had recommended the purchase of six new busses and he had received approval from the ODT for additional routes, but the only thing the City had done was to purchase one or two extra busses. His suggestion that additional routes be made was not heeded, which led the ODT to believe that this extra service was not necessary. In view of these facts he believed that his company is more desirous and better able to expand and increase the Bus Line in this area than the City would ever be willing to do, and he assured the people he could put on more busses and improve the schedules. He stated that after the war there would be competition with cheap automo-

biles and cheap gasoline, and whether a transportation system is municipally or privately owned, there will be this competition, and the only way to compete with it is to provide the public with good service.

Councilman Gilbert asked Mr. Koors if he could promise the people that the line would be maintained as it now is.

In reply, Mr. Koors said, that in the agreement it stated they would apply to the California Railroad Commission for permission to use the same route which the line is now operating.

Councilman Cucci discussed the matter of a municipality having the privilege of operating on any highway, whereas a private company is subject to the approval of the Railroad Commission, and he doubted if Mr. Koors could give them the same service and follow the same line.

Mr. Koors discussed at length the method followed by the Railroad Commission in granting requests for additional service.

In addressing Mr. Koors, Councilman Powell said he (Mr. Koors) was in a position, while working for the City, to make some improvements but his record does not speak very highly of him as a business man. Councilman Powell disapproved the action of the Council in trying to get rid of a good thing, and claimed that the Bus Line is a good thing.

Mr. Babbitt commented on the trouble in the Bus Department and said that these complaints should have been taken up with the Civil Service Board, and that also, the charges against Mr. Ward should have first been taken up with the Civil Service Board. He discussed at some length the discord existing in various departments but claimed that they had all been straightened out. He concluded his remarks by saying, "I am not surprised at the sale of the busses because it was said that if Tolson was elected the line would be sold."

Mr. Raymond, Chairman of the Civil Service Board, stated that when the Civil Service Board went into effect, Mr. Ward was classified as Bus Manager with the approval of the City Council; that the trouble in the Bus Department started when Mr. Koors was employed and attempted to take things over, but the Civil Service Board could not recognize anyone but Mr. Ward. With reference to the Bus Line he stated as follows: "Until Councilman Cucci took over the system there was no one looking after it, and Councilman Cucci should be given credit for the wonderful work he has done in that Department."

Mr. Slonecker made a few remarks pertinent to the Bus Line.

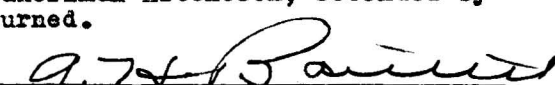
Mr. Evans registered a complaint on the unsanitary conditions existing in the alley in the rear of the Castle and Roi-Tan Apartments due to the garbage being scattered over the ground and thus creating an offensive odor.

Chief Stroh was asked if there was a law compelling the owners to keep their portion of the alley any cleaner. Chief Stroh replied that this matter should be handled by the Health Department.

A discussion followed on the best method of remedying this situation. Engineer Jain stated he had worked out a plan but doubted if the people would be willing to cooperate, and he added that the Garbage Collector is not compelled to pick up garbage lying on the ground.

After further discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to have the owners of the two apartment houses meet with the Council; Mr. Green, the Garbage Contractor; the City Engineer and the Chief of Police, in an effort to work out some solution to this unsightly and unsanitary condition. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 11:10 P.M., on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

ATTEST:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE